



**United Nations Development Programme  
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM NOVEMBER, 201 TO DECEMBER 2018**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods Through Improved Natural Resource Governance and Economic Diversification in the Kono District</li> <li>• Programme Number: 00110520 (<i>if applicable</i>)</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality, Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Sierra Leone/West Africa, UNDP RRF Outcome 2.2 Communities in targeted districts are engaged in design and implementation of gender responsive sustainable NRM and livelihood diversification</p>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <p><b>Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Youth Affairs</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL); National Minerals Agency (NMA); National Youth Commission (NAYCOM); Koidu New Sembehun City Council; Kono District Council and NGOs; Government Technical and Vocational Center; Advocate for Social Justice and Development Sierra Leone (ASJD-SL); Hands Empowering the Less Privilege in Sierra Leone (HELP-SL); Advocacy Initiative for Development Sierra Leone (AID-SL)</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: <b>\$540,663.00</b> MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> Agency Contribution</li> <li>• <i>by Agency : FAO's</i> Contribution-\$496,000</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>)</p> <p><b>Actual EOD: 11 Nov 2015</b> <b>Actual NTE: 02 June 2018</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>  Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i> <b>TOTAL:</b>	Actual End date <sup>5</sup> (31/12/2018)  Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system?      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>  Expected Financial Closure date <sup>6</sup> :
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b> Evaluation Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No    Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Evaluation Report - Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No    Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	<b>Report Submitted By</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Name: Tanzila Sankoh <input type="checkbox"/> Title: Team Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP <input type="checkbox"/> Email address: tanzila.sankoh@undp.org

## **FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The “Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods through Improved Natural Resource Governance and Economic Diversification in the Kono District, Sierra Leone” project is a joint initiative by FAO and UNDP. The project is implemented within the framework of a UN multi-agency Area-Based Development (ABD) approach in the Kono district, eastern Sierra Leone and focuses on two broad, interlinked intervention areas aimed at enhancing sustainable, inclusive governance of natural resources as well as diversification of sustainable livelihood opportunities in one of the most mineral-rich, but least developed areas in the country.

Activities under this project aimed to increase knowledge and inclusive participation in natural resource governance, promote effective dialogue between all stakeholders in local development initiatives, and to promote alternative livelihood options for poor and disadvantaged youths and women in the district. Partnerships were formed around agriculture, aquaculture, value added trade, mini-processing and production activities, which were based on the thorough analysis of local market needs. Over 60,000 people including youths and women were reached through face-to-face and mass media outreach awareness raising on environmental management, policies and laws on mining and advocacy approaches for decision making on natural resource management. A total of 20 acres of mined-out land was reclaimed and brought under cultivation of rice (8 acres) and another 7 acres for vegetable and economic trees production. Two hundred (200) people – 114 women – were trained in agribusiness skills and supported with inputs to cultivate reclaimed lands.

A total of 450 youths (46 women) gained entrepreneurship and business development skills and have established their own businesses. Startup capital of one million Leones (Le 1,000,000) each was given to all 450 youths to actualize business plans they developed over a course of 12 weeks in multiple sessions of entrepreneurship skills building and business startup plans development. The 450 youths earlier this year completed vocational trainings in nine categories – Agriculture, Welding, Electrification, Refrigeration, Auto-Mechanic, Heavy-Duty Truck Driving, Heavy-Duty Machine, Operations, Block-Laying and Computer soft/hardware.

<sup>5</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

<sup>6</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Communities were also capacitated to establish and manage mini-aquaculture enterprises and poultry farms which contributed to creating livelihood diversification opportunities, as well as improving food and nutrition security, especially in rural areas.

Twenty-four (24) fish ponds and eight (8) poultry houses were constructed in Kono district in a bid to create alternative sources of income for youths and women also to improve nutrition and food security. This intervention benefited 1200 youths and women engaged in poultry and fish farming across the 14 chiefdoms in Kono. They were also trained on the general management of doing poultry and fish farming. To ascertain the sustainability of this intervention, FAO facilitated the procurement of a multipurpose feed machine and a 40 KVA generator meant for the production of feed for both poultry and fish farmers in Kono district.

## **I. Purpose**

Provide a brief introduction to the programme/ project (*one paragraph*):

This project was designed with an overall goal to enhance Sustainable Livelihoods through Improved Natural Resource Governance and Economic Diversification in the Kono District in Sierra Leone.

The main objectives and expected outcome of this project are stated as follows:

- Inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency in natural resources management;
- Livelihoods improved through diversified and inclusive economic opportunities

## **II. Assessment of Programme Results**

### **Outcomes:**

This project was designed with an overall goal to enhance Sustainable Livelihoods through Improved Natural Resource Governance and Economic Diversification in the Kono District. The primary approach was to increase knowledge and ensure inclusive participation in natural resource governance, promote effective dialogue between all stakeholders in local development initiatives, and to promote alternative livelihood options for disadvantaged youths and women in the district.

In 2018, enhanced awareness and knowledge on extractive laws, policies and sustainable environmental practices in the extractive sector have fostered constructive dialogue and contributions into discussions on extractive sector issues and decision-making processes. Over 450 people (20% women) including youths and women representing 25 organizations attended face-to-face sensitization sessions with an additional 60,000 people targeted in mass media outreach. Demand from women and youths for accountability increased with knowledge on NRM processes and resources available for local development. The community development committee (CDC) accountability systems were improved through capacity support to respond to community demands through effective community consultation processes and development funds administration.

A communique has been agreed upon and signed initiating for the first time a very strong partnership drive among district stakeholders including CSOs, traditional leaders, mining companies, local councils, MDAs to foster continuous engagement and cooperation on community development plans. The partnership also supported advocacy actions for various Natural Resource Management (NRM) issues and policy reforms both in the short and long-term contexts at all levels. Through this communique, Chiefdom councils have expressed interest in pooling resources as part of this partnership on resource mobilization for local development and promotion of alternative livelihood opportunities in the district. For example, under this partnership, attempts to re-dig reclaimed land by some artisanal miners were strongly resisted by joint operations carried out by National Mineral Agency (NMA) and CSOs. On this note, the regional office of NMA and CSOs agreed to undertake joint awareness raising on the impact and penalty for illegal mining in the district.

Six hundred and fifty (650) alternative livelihoods have been created for youths and women who have established business enterprises or agricultural plots after receiving vocational and entrepreneur skills in 2018. Out of the 650 people targeted, 160 are women. Prior to the business establishments, the target youths and women were trained in nine vocational skills areas: Agriculture, Welding, Electrification, Refrigeration, Auto-Mechanic, Heavy-Duty Truck Driving, Heavy-Duty Machine, Operations, Block-Laying and Computer soft/hardware. For agricultural enterprises supported, 20 acres of mined-out plots were reclaimed at No. 9 in Tankoro Chiefdom (8 acres) and at Yardu in Gbense chiefdom (12 acres). To ensure livelihoods become sustainable, mentorship was provided to all 650 youths and women to understand business startup issues and enabled them to develop individual or group business plans. While formal employment opportunities are scarce in the district, youths have now started businesses thereby creating sustainable alternative livelihoods and income earning options for themselves.

The other component which was implemented by FAO constructed eight (8) mini poultry houses and were stocked with 4000 layers of birds of 23 weeks old. These established poultry houses were further provided with sufficient feed until the birds completed their entire cycle and then sold. The project also supported the construction and stocking of 24 fishponds across the 14 chiefdoms in the entire district. Each of the ponds was stocked with 800 fingerlings and benefited 700 youths and women farmers. This intervention benefited approximately 1200 youths and women farmers by increasing their incomes and improving the nutrition status of the vulnerable groups within their communities.

- **Outputs 1:**

Capacities for improved monitoring of Environmental and Social Compliance was strengthened by providing trainings to a total of 150 community members (80 women) in mined-out land reclamation, increased awareness of 150 miners on environmental impact of artisanal mining. A total of 200 youth and women gained skills in Agric business. The groups have planted economic trees, variety of vegetables, citrus, avocado, pineapples and rice. These groups comprise of 114 people with 14 women and 100 artisanal miners previously engaged in artisanal mining. They are now involved in agriculture as an alternative livelihood. Also, 300 youth and women (representing more than 25 groups) gained awareness in extractive policies, law and practices and popularized key NRM policies for advocacy and accountability purposes.

**PHOTOS BEFORE THE LAND WAS RECLAIMED (MINED OUT LAND)**



**PHOTOS SHOWING CULTIVATED RECLAIMED LAND AT YARDU FOR PLANTING IMPROVED VARIETIES OF CASSAVA, POTATOES, CORN AND VEGETABLES**



**The photos below show progress of rice cultivation on reclaimed land at no. 9 Community**



Under this output, 45 NGOs/CBOs gained improved advocacy skills to promote positive and non-adversary advocacy actions including Four (4) dialogue forums were held that convened all stakeholders including CSOs, MDAs, Local Councils, traditional authorities and mining companies to discuss on issues of communication gaps, partnership and coordination on natural resource management. The inclusive community development processes facilitated the setting up of community development committee (CDC). All 50 members now have the expertise to assess, design and implement youth and women focused projects. A Two three-classroom block for example was constructed at Yardu and Tankoro by them and they also rehabilitated the Gbense market structure to prevent water flooding into the market stall.

## sessions of the advocacy and awareness raising enhancement programme



- ✚ Chiefdom speaker on behalf of the paramount chief, promised to document ownership of the reclaimed land for women cooperatives to enable them have full control and maximize its output as key investment and economic empowerment.

### Output 2: **Business Development Services strengthened through mentorships and business advisory support**

Under this output, 450 youths (46 women) gained entrepreneurship and business development skills and have established their own businesses. Startup capital of one million Leones (Le 1,000,000) each was given to all 450 youths to actualize business plans they developed over a course of 12 weeks in multiple sessions of entrepreneurship skills building and business startup plans development. Developed training manual on business development services for which 450 youth were trained in business development or startup services.

### Output 2.2: **Aquaculture and poultry enterprises established to increase income, improve food and nutrition security.**

- 48 fish farmers (mostly women) capacitated on the general management of fish farming;
- 24 fish ponds constructed and stocked with 800 fingerlings each;
- 16 youths trained on the general management of poultry farming.
- Eight (8) poultry houses constructed and stocked with 500 layers each.

These interventions benefited approximately 1200 youths and women farmers by way of increasing their incomes and improved the nutrition status of the vulnerable groups within their communities.

**i. Fish pond construction by beneficiaries**



**ii. Youth received 800 fingerlings for stocking in pond**



**iii. Beneficiaries at one of completed Poultry houses**



**iv. Poultry farm**

- **Qualitative assessment:** Provide a qualitative assessment of the level of overall achievement of the Programme. Please refer to the executive summary section.  
Highlight key partnerships and explain how such relationships impacted on the achievement of results.

### **Partnership**

Strong and a broad range of partnerships was established with Environmental protection agency (EPA) and NMA which took part in radio discussions held by implementing partner ASJD. The Local councils, MDAs, NMJD, WOME, Koidu holdings, Meya Mining, Sea Writght, Paramount chiefs worked with the IP, contribute into a district advocacy plan developed through the support of this project. Joint communique was signed that frames how all parties or stakeholders build productive partnerships and cooperation to foster sustainable livelihoods and NRM governance in the Kono district.

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Outcome 1</b><sup>7</sup> Livelihoods of vulnerable groups improved through economic diversification  <b>Indicator: Number of beneficiaries with increased income and improved nutritional status as a result of the intervention</b>  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target: 1200 youth including men &amp; women</b></p>	<p><b>1. 20 acres</b> of mined out areas were reclaimed, developed and cultivated with various crops</p> <p>Eight (8) poultry houses were established, benefited 500 youths and the 24 fishponds also benefited 700 youths and their income increased</p>		Annual progress report
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Enhanced capacity for improved monitoring of environmental and social compliance &amp; CDAs  <b>Indicator:</b> No. of community members including NGOs/CBOs who demonstrate increased ability to rehabilitate mined out land  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b> At least 180 community members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>150 community members (80 women)</b> gained knowledge in mined-out land reclamation and practically engaged in land reclamation and development of plots;</li> <li>• 150 youths and women (representing more than 25 groups) gained knowledge &amp; can articulate issues on extractive policies</li> <li>• 45 NGOs/CBOs capacitated in improved advocacy skills</li> </ul>		Annual progress report

<sup>7</sup> Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlines in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.



<p><b>Output 2:</b> Local economy diversified through value chain development, increased entrepreneurship, economic productivity, and improved service delivery</p> <p><b>Indicator: No. of new enterprises (Disaggregated by type) developed in targeted communities through value chain development</b></p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target: 450 enterprises</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>450 youth capacitated in Entrepreneurship skill, provided with business startups &amp; established their own businesses</b></li> </ul>		Annual Progress report
<p><b>Output 2.2: Aquaculture and Poultry enterprises established to increase income, improve food and nutrition security</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1: No. of Aquaculture &amp; poultry enterprises established</b></p> <p><b>Baseline: limited</b> functional poultry houses exist in Kono district</p> <p><b>Planned Target: 24 fish ponds constructed</b></p> <p><b>8 Poultry houses constructed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48 fish farmers (mostly women) trained on the general management of fish farming.</li> <li>• 24 ponds constructed and stocked with 800 fingerlings each</li> <li>• 16 youths trained on the general management of poultry farming.</li> <li>• Eight (8) poultry houses constructed and stocked with 500 layers each.</li> <li>• Baseline Surey conducted to ascertain the status and prospect of poultry across the 14 chiefdoms in kono district.</li> </ul>		<p>Annual Progress report</p> <p>Baseline Report</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity/skill needs assessment conducted in the agribusiness sector conducted across the 14 chiefdoms in Kono district</li> </ul>		Assessment Report

## **i) Lessons Learned**

Gender and social inclusion was very poor at the very commencement of the project. Despite project design called for 50/50 male-female youth targets, training categories identified were not quite female friendly and very little effort was done to involve women's organization at the inception stages of project. Only 10% (46) of women (out of 450 youths) in the nine categories of vocational skills training. Formal application processes might have limited illiterate female youths and young women from applying for the vocational training opportunities support in this project. However, as part of the land reclamation of 20 acres of mined out pits, 114 women (out of 200 people) benefited from agricultural livelihood support invested by this project.

High expectations of project to provide daily allowances for vocational skills training activities attracted some youths for the wrong motives that demotivated many trainees and impacted daily attendance. Inception activities were not sufficiently adequate in disseminating project information and implementation plans. Misinformed youths many times targeted and protested implementing partners leading to delays in activity delivery.

Divided stakeholder interests and stereotypic notions about one another in the extractive sector caused adversary among stakeholders. This created apprehension to stakeholder dialogue. Bilateral stakeholder consultations through a well-known and respected CSO (IP) leveraged the need for open discussions and dialogue among stakeholders. CSOs were given training in new approaches of advocacy and developed a development focused and partnership-based advocacy plan that all other stakeholders contributed into and adopted.

Project invested poorly on learning and knowledge management aspects of the sector invested in. Despite the fact that resources were available for end of project evaluation, no funds were left for communication asset production such as research reports, documentaries, case stories and very good photos.

### ***Lesson/elements of success under the Poultry and Aquaculture components Implemented by FAO***

This initial investment in building and stocking of poultry farms and fish ponds has laid a solid foundation for the farmers to build on and expand the business. Also, the feed mill that is being run by the private sector will not only serve the beneficiaries of the project, but it will also provide similar services to other farmers now and in the future.

Collective or group approaches (self-help groups or community-based organizations) can foster knowledge-sharing and economic links among stakeholders and can overcome some of the constraints faced by individuals.

Simple, low cost technologies for subsistence-oriented aquaculture are more likely to be successfully adopted by farmers living in remote areas with limited access to inputs, fingerlings, and technical support.

## Lesson/challenges

The targeted beneficiaries for the poultry houses and fish ponds are the youths, but because the return on investment is not readily available, it may take some time, some of the youths preferred to forego the benefit of poultry and fish farming to that of diamond and gold mining which have the chances of providing unexplained wealth for such categories of people. The project team had to work with the few that were committed and business minded.

Interference of leadership authority in the implementation of project is very prominent in Kono district. Youth leaders and other key stakeholders always want to dictate the direction of project activities in favour of their interest areas. Continuous consultations with the local leaders were the key strategies used during the implementation.

Challenge in reaching out to selected beneficiary communities as a result of deplorable road and poor communication networks. During the inception meeting held with key stakeholders of the beneficiaries' communities, specific locations were agreed upon to benefit directly from the project, but because of the long distances and deplorable status of roads, it most of the time impacted on the rate of project implementation.

Due to political activities such as the elections, most of the services and prices of goods were inflated from the original estimated budget in the approved project. .

Availability of most of the project inputs in the country is a challenge and reliance on import for chicks, feed (especially Limestone and Concentrate), and other relevant equipment was a constraint.

### Evaluation, Best Practices

This project has not yet been Evaluated. However, the evaluation has been scheduled to take place in weeks to come (approximately until April 2019). As such, the hiring process for a consultant has been initiated and is underway.

#### ii) Success stories/Human interest stories



Mining have been the major source of livelihood in Yardu community since 1930 but it has not reflected on the indigenes in the community. Hawa Jabbie 35 years old a farmer and a mother of four children amongst who are two boys and two girls at the same time chairlady for the Yardu agricultural women was overwhelmed upon reclaiming a land in her community that has been mined for over 40 years. This is what she has to say "words are not enough how grateful I am to ASJD-SL /UNDP for reclaiming our land where we used to cultivate our crops. Before the reclamation, the mining activity was carried by multinational mining companies (National Diamond Mining who used heavy machines to carry out their mining. After taking our diamond minerals away, as women we were left with nothing but dug out pit which serve as a breeding place for mosquitoes and a death hazard for our school going children".She continues " I thought all hope had gone not knowing that there is light at the end of the tunnel. As the chairlady of Yardu agricultural women I was really downcast

with the mining activities and the way the land was misused. But with GOD on our side, I am one of the happiest woman on planet earth upon reclaiming a land that has been mined for more than four decades”. She concluded “ASJD-SL/UNDP came to our aid as a blessing in disguise and I thank them for restoring back our land and livelihood and for giving us training on Agric. business skills and entrepreneurship on how to improve on our crops cultivation, to have better harvest and earn more income. With ASJD-SL /UNDP I will always keep smiling because they have given me peace of mind”.

<https://awoko.org/2018/11/02/sierra-leone-news-reclaiming-mined-out-land-in-kono-district/>

<http://www.thesatellitenews.com/index.php/en/other-news/340-asjd-boost-land-reclamation-in-kono-district>

Mr Sahr Banju is a youth born in Kono district and left school at primary level due to lack of support from his parents. For him all through his youthful era, diamond mining was the only source of income although he confessed that over 90% chances of not getting any gem is the case in his mining experience.

According to Mr Banju, depending on the proceeds from the diamonds most times left him in a situation where he cannot pay fees for his children; and in the raining season they barely managed to have a meal as a family. “However, since the introduction of the poultry farming coupled with the knowledge gained during the training, I am of the firm belief that we would be able to manage the farm well and replicate it so that we can maximise our investment in it. This would now serve as a regular source of money to pay fees and do some other forms of business instead of gambling in diamond mining”.



*Sahr Banju transformed now from diamond miner to poultry farmer.*

**Problem / Challenge faced:** Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government). See under lessons learned

**Programme Interventions:** How was the problem or challenged addressed through the Programme interventions?

**Result (if applicable):** Describe the observable *change* that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?

**Lessons Learned:** What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions? See above under lessons learned.